GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1076
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
BIRD HIT ACCIDENT AT DELHI AIRPORT
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Air Mauritius plane caught fire after being hit by a bird just after taking off from Delhi Airport on July 24, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to prevent such incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b):- An incident of bird hit had occurred to Air Mauritius Flight MAU745, A-330 aircraft at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport while operating flight Delhi to Mauritius on 24/07/2008. During take off roll bird hit occurred and pilot rejected take off at high speed and applied brake. Due to application of sudden braking, wheel assembly got heated and emitted smoke. Full emergency was declared by ATC. There were total 252 persons on board. All passengers were evacuated through emergency slide chute on taxiway. 53 passengers sustained minor injury.

(c) and (d):- Yes, Sir. Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airports where scheduled flights operate to identify the sources of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. Various specific steps such as proper disposal of garbage, prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage bins, establishment of modern abattoirs, scaring of birds etc. have also been taken to reduce the incidence of bird hits.